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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/772,918	01/31/2001	Hideyuki Amaku	826.1671/JDH	9990

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STAAS & HALSEY LLP
SUITE 700
1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER
NGUYEN, MERILYN P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2171	3

DATE MAILED: 08/05/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/772,918	AMAKU ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Merilyn P Nguyen	2171	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____ .

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-13* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-13* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *31 January 2001* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11)☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☒ Other: *Detailed Action* .

DETAILED ACTION

1. This application claims foreign priority Application No. 2000-181687 filed on June 16, 2000.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakagaki (US 5,857,077).

Regarding claims 1, 8, 9, 12, and 13, Nakagaki discloses a recording system, a recording method, a computer-readable storage medium, and a propagating signal, comprising:

- a generation device generating process information for indicating a content of a process in a specific system (See col. 9, line 66 to col. 10, line 16); and
- a recording device (distribution history holding section 15) performing a process for recording the process information of the specific system in a storage medium (See col. 10, lines 17-21) that is shared by a plurality of systems including the specific system (See Fig. 9, for example, Systems A, B, C, D sharing information from the distribution history holding section 15) and that stores a plurality of pieces of process information of the plurality of systems (See Fig. 58, for example, wherein, distribution history holding section stores a plurality of pieces of process information of the plurality of systems A, B, C D), in a format such

that a process history of the plurality of systems can be tracked (See col. 11, line 63 to col. 12, line 21).

Regarding claim 2, Nakagaki discloses all the claimed subject matter, as set forth above in claim 1, and further Fig. 18, Fig. 21, and col. 25, line 51 to col. 26, line 63 of Nakagaki discloses wherein if the storage medium of the distribution history holding section 15 stores output identification information related to an output content (information X) of a preceding process of sending from system A before a current process (receiving) in the specific system B, said generation device generates service identification information of the current process (See Fig. 18, "Received id-X from id-A at T1"), obtains the output identification information ("id-X") of the preceding process from the storage medium, generates input identification information related to an input content of the current process (the "id-X" of the system A now becomes the input identification information related to an input content information X of the current process of receiving of system B), generates output identification information related to an output content of the current process by combining the input identification information with the service identification information ("sent id-X to id-C at T2", See Fig. 21 for further clarification) and generates the process information of the specific system by relating the service identification information, the input identification information, the output identification information and a content of the current process to each other (See Fig. 21, the distribution history holding section of system B generates the process information by storing/recording the receiving and sending process information).

Regarding claim 3, Nakagaki discloses all the claimed subject matter, as set forth above in claim 2, and Fig. 21 of Nakagaki further discloses wherein if the input content ("information X") of the current process (process of receiving of system D, for example) includes a plurality of pieces of input data (information X received from system B and C), said generation device generates input identification information related to each piece of input data (See col. 30, lines 52-66), generates input group identification information for grouping a plurality of pieces of input identification information corresponding to the plurality of pieces of input data and attaches relationship between the plurality of pieces of input identification information and the input group identification information to the process information of the specific system (See col. 31, line 55 to col. 32, line 9, group of inputs received from systems A, B, C, and D corresponds to group identification information, and it also shows the relationship among input identification information).

Regarding claims 4 and 10, Nakagaki discloses a retrieval system, comprising:

- a retrieval device (History collection section 16, Fig. 18) performing a process for retrieving data from a storage medium (Distribution history holding section 15, Fig. 18) that is shared by a plurality of systems (See Fig. 18, for example, Systems A, B, C, D sharing information from the distribution history holding section 15) and that stores process information for indicating a content of each process of the plurality of systems (See Fig. 58, for example, wherein, distribution history holding section stores a plurality of pieces of process information of the

plurality of systems A, B, C D),in a format such that a process history of the plurality of systems can be tracked (See col. 11, line 63 to col. 12, line 21); and

- a generation device generating the process history from the information obtained from the storage medium by retrieval (See col. 62, lines 47-56).

Regarding claim 5, Nakagaki discloses all the claimed subject matter, as set forth above in claim 4, and further Fig. 18, Fig. 21, and col. 25, line 51 to col. 26, line 63 of Nakagaki discloses wherein if the storage medium stores service identification information (See Fig. 18, "Received id-X from id-A at T1"), input identification information that is related to an input content and that is generated from output identification information related to an output content of a preceding process (the "id-X" output from the preceding system A becomes the input identification information related to an input content information X of the system B), output identification information that is related to an output content and that obtained by combining the input identification information with the service identification information ("sent id-X to id-C at T2", See Fig. 21 for further clarification), and a content of a process as the process information for each process of the plurality of systems (See Fig. 21, the distribution history holding section of system B records the receiving and sending process information), said retrieval device obtains a plurality of pieces of service identification information, input identification information and output identification information of a plurality of processes that are stored in the storage medium (See col. 27, lines 35-42), and said generation device generates the process information based on relationship among the plurality of pieces of the obtained identification information (See col. 27, lines 43-56).

Regarding claim 6, Nakagaki discloses all the claimed subject matter, as set forth above in claim 5, and further discloses wherein said generation device generates the process information by obtaining both an output identification information of a preceding process before a specific process (output id-X information of preceding sending process of system A, Figs. 18 and 21) and service name information (receiving and sending of Fig. 21 correspond to service name information) of the specific process from both input identification information and service identification information included in output identification information of the specific process (See col. 31 line 55 to col. 32, line 9) and Fig. 18 shows repeating a same process for the output identification information of the preceding process at systems C and D.

Regarding claims 7 and 11, Nakagaki discloses a retrieval system, comprising:

- a retrieval device (History collection section 16, Fig. 18) performing a process for retrieving data from a storage medium (Distribution history holding section 15, Fig. 18) that is shared by a plurality of systems (See Fig. 18, for example, Systems A, B, C, D sharing information from the distribution history holding section 15) and that stores process information for indicating a content of each process of the plurality of systems (See Fig. 58, for example, wherein, distribution history holding section stores a plurality of pieces of process information of the plurality of systems A, B, C D),in a format such that a process history of the plurality of systems can be tracked (See col. 11, line 63 to col. 12, line 21); and

- a process device processing information using the information obtained from the storage medium by retrieval (See col. 61, line 40 to col. 62, line 33).

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Hayashi U.S Patent No. 6,026,365 discloses workflow support system and method of the same.

Wakai U.S Patent No. 6,587,861 discloses apparatus and method for controlling execution of job, and storage medium for such a program.

Sziklai U.S Patent No. 6,341,287 discloses integrated change management unit.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Merilyn P Nguyen whose telephone number is 703-305-5177. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 8:30 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on 703-308-1436. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7239 for regular communications and 703-746-7240 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

MN
July 27, 2003

FRANTZ COBY
PRIMARY EXAMINER